



DIVISIONS  
ENERGY  
GAS AND OIL  
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
MINED LAND RECLAMATION  
MINERAL MINING  
MINES  
ADMINISTRATION

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## *Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy*

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### Public Hearings Scheduled on Amendments to Virginia Gas and Oil Regulations

**RICHMOND** – Two public hearings will be held in Big Stone Gap, VA, on Friday, October 23, 2009, to receive public comments concerning proposed amendments to Virginia Gas and Oil Regulations and Virginia Gas and Oil Board Regulations, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) announced today. The proposed amendments are the result of required periodic reviews of the Board and Gas and Oil Regulations conducted by the DMME.

#### **Virginia Gas and Oil Regulations**

DMME is amending the Gas and Oil Regulations to correct technical areas for accuracy, improve worker safety, and provide clarity. These amendments will aid the DMME in its review and regulation of gas and oil extraction activities.

Amendments will reduce workload and increase efficiency for applicants by providing flexibility and economy to the permit process; update requirements to include map symbols that are consistent with current industry usage and available computer assisted design (CAD) technology; protect the safety and health of oil and gas industry employees; and bring consistency to data submission requirements for the Division of Gas & Oil.

The use of latitude and longitude and the Virginia Coordinate System of 1927 have been replaced by the Virginia Coordinate System of 1983 in other Division of Gas & Oil regulations. Current industry practice is to use the more modern 1983 coordinate system for describing the locations of wells and core holes. Applicants for permits under this chapter must currently convert their coordinates back to the 1927 system, as required by the regulation, in order to submit them to the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Division of Gas & Oil. The amendment will allow applicants to use the updated 1983 coordinate system.

#### **Gas and Oil Board Regulations**

DMME and the Virginia Gas & Oil Board (Board) are amending the Virginia Gas and Oil Board Regulations, to make technical corrections for accuracy, improve clarity, increase efficiency, and

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to restore consistency with other chapters. Other amendments will reduce workload and increase efficiency for applicants by providing flexibility and economy in the application process; bring consistency to data submission requirements; and allow applicants to use the updated 1983 coordinate system.

Additional information about the proposed amendments may be found on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website at <http://www.townhall.state.va.us>.

The public hearings will be held on Friday, October 23, 2009, at the DMME Buchanan-Smith Office Building, off U.S Route 23 South, adjacent to the Mountain Empire Community College campus. The hearing on the Board regulations will begin at 1 p.m., and will be immediately followed by the hearing on the Gas and Oil Regulations.

Public comments will be accepted through October 30, 2009, and may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearings. Written comments may also be submitted by mail, email or fax to Tabitha Hibbitts Peace, Policy Analyst, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, P.O. Drawer 900, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219, phone 276-523-8212, fax 276-523-8148, or [Tabitha.Peace@dmme.virginia.gov](mailto:Tabitha.Peace@dmme.virginia.gov). Written comments must include the name and address of the commenter.

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